



Loni Hancock

ASSEMBLYWOMAN, FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

August 12, 2004

Coastal Conservancy Members
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: Letter of Support for City of Berkeley Grant Submittal:
Bay Trail Extension: Berkeley Marina and Waterfront Access Improvements
Phase I Construction**

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET,
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
EDUCATION
JUDICIARY
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES
RULES,
SEXUAL HARASSMENT
PREVENTION, CHAIR

JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

SELECT COMMITTEE ON BRIDGING
THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP, CHAIR

Dear Coastal Conservancy Members:

I am writing in support of the City of Berkeley's grant application to fund construction of the first phase of the Bay Trail Extension. The Bay Trail Extension is an ADA-compliant multi-use trail that will provide safe and convenient access for cyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair users, strollers, skaters and others to the recreational and educational facilities at the Berkeley Marina and Eastshore State Park.

As a spur of the San Francisco Bay Trail, this project will immediately improve access to the waterfront from the East Bay cities and, when the Bay Trail is completed, to the entire San Francisco Bay region. Since the trail also connects with the I-80 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge, it will provide an important link to the Bay for the residential, commercial, retail and educational areas that lie east of I-80.

The existing bicycle access is not only unsafe; it is not truly accessible for some pedestrians and wheelchair users. The only way for cyclists, wheelchair users and others to get to the Berkeley waterfront is to travel along the unevenly paved shoulder of University Avenue. The Bay Trail Extension project will provide an alternative route that is separated from the vehicular traffic along the University Avenue thoroughfare. The proposed trail will also provide a safer, more enjoyable, waterfront experience for the users due to its alignment through park landscape and by the water's edge.

The Berkeley Marina and its facilities are already a major regional destination. Completion of the Berkeley's I-80 Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge and the Bay Trail have greatly increased the use of this area. The number of State, regional and local visitors is expected to increase significantly over the next few years as improvements are made to the Marina and as Eastshore State Park is developed.

I urge you to support this important regional project by allocating funding for phase I construction of the Bay Trail Extension.

Sincerely,

Loni Hancock
LONI HANCOCK
Assemblywoman, 14th District

Cc: Brenda Buxton, Project Manager

RECEIVED

AUG 16 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.